Construction of express way in Maharashtra

1844. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANS PORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified twelve express way alignments to be developed by private sector banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of those located in Maharashtra; and

(d) what has been the response of private sectors so far as construction of roads is concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Salvage operations of M. V. Green Opal

1845. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3046 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 14th July,,1998 and state:

(a) the status of the salvage operations of the sunken ship M. V. Green Opal;

(b) whether there is any change in the target date of completion of the operations; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor indicating specifically whether they were foreseen or unforeseen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The Salvage Firm M/s. Tsavliris Russ has not been able to salvage the sunken ship as yet. At present they are engaged in endeavours to lift the rear portion of the sunken ship for towing it to the designated beach nearby. The entire cargo of the ship was, however, lifted before the last monsoon.

(b) The target date of completion of entire operation is 31.12.1998. The Firm has not approached the Calcutta Port Trust for amending the date for completion of the operations.

(c) Does not arise.

डीजल पर उपकर लगाया जाना

1846. **श्री डी.पी. यादव** : क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार सड़क परियोजनाओं के लिए अतिरिक्त धन जुटाने हेतु डीजल पर उपकर लगाने पर विचार कर रही हैं, और

(ख) क्या सड़क परियोजनाओं में निजी क्षेत्र के निवेश को बढ़ावा देने हेतु कोई योजना तैयार की जा रही हैं, यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या हैं और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा. देवेन्द्र प्रधान) : (क) जी नहीं।

(ख) जी हां। निर्माण प्रचालन और हस्तान्तरण(बी ओ टी) स्कीम के तहत सड़क परियोजनाओं के लिए गैर सरकारी क्षेत्र से निधियां आकर्षित करने के बारे में मार्गनिर्देश जारी किए जा चुके हैं।

Amount spent on the maintenance of NH-55

1847. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditures incurred to keep NH-55 transportworthy during 1995—98, year-wise;

(b) the details of money allocated this year to restore this Highway; and

(c) the details of the authorities who are responsible to look after regular maintenance of this Highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) The year-wise expenditure incurred to keep National Highway-55 traffic worthy since 1995-96 is as under:

Year	Amount in lakhs
1995-96	Rs. 153.879
1996-97	Rs. 155.492
1997-98	Rs. 183.612

(b) and (c) The money is allocated for the maintenance of all National Highways in a State and not National Highway wise. However, Public Works Department of Government of West Bengal, who are responsible for maintaining this National Highway on behalf of this Ministry on agency basis, have reported that for the year 1998-99 (upto October, 1998) an expenditure of Rs. 147.278 lakhs have been incurred for this purpose.

Financial assistance to textile industry in Kerala

1848. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the acute crisis currently being faced by the textile industry in Kerala posing a serious threat to the huge investments made in the industry both by the State Government and the private sector and endangering the employment of about 25,000 personnel including workers, trainees etc. in both the sectors;

(b) whether the State Government has suggested some relief measures and necessary financial assistance for rejuvenating the textile industry in the State; and

(c) if so, the details of these suggestions and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) Hon'ble Minister for Industries and Social Welfare, State Government of Kerala, in a letter, *inter-alia,* has stated that acute crisis in textile industry has posed a serious threat to huge investment made in the industry both by the State Government and the private sector. This situation has endangered the employment of around 19,000 personnel directly engaged by the textile mills in the State besides that of an equal number of indirect labour.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Hon'ble Minister for Industries and Social Welfare, State Government of Kerala has requested assistance in respect of following items for rejuvendating the textile industry in Kerala—

(i) Reintroduction of granting interest free excise loan to sick units.

(ii) Availability of credit at lower rate of interest at peak season.

(iii) Rephasement of dues against long term loans:—To allow moratorium against repayment of term loans to deserving mills.

(iv) Ensuring availability of quality cotton at fair prices.

(v) Reduction in Hank Yarn Obligation.

(vi) Extension of Technology Upgradation Fund to Spinning Mills.

(vii) Extension of NRF to State Public Section Units.

Items (i), (ii) & (iii) have been taken up with Ministry of Finance which are concerned with them. In addition, Ministry of Textiles has convened a series of meetings (including one chaired by Textile Minister) with representatives of banks and financial institutions and those of industry for discussing the problem of adequate availability of credit to textile sector. Banks and financial institutions have indicated extension of a helpful hand to the industry. Minister of State (Revenue, Banking & Insurance) also met the representatives of textile associations and representatives of banks and financial institutions to consider the working capital requirements of textile industry.